TL 6569

FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

Lisbon, 23 February, 1988

Dear friend(s)

Hereby we would like to present to you our project/ /proposal on the Information Office of FRETILIN/G.I.F.. We kindly request you to take the proposal into consideration for a subsidy out of the fund capacities of your organization.

The Information Office of FRETILIN, which was created in November 1986 on a very low budget, unfortunately suffers from a severe shortage of money at this moment. Therefore it is practically impossible to continue its services of which many institutions and people made use so far.

Before presenting the proposal (aims, activities, budget allocation and budget needs), we first would like to give you some basic information concerning the importance of G.I.F..

We are always willing to answer questions from your side, and we are looking forward to hearing from you soon,

with kind regards,

FRETILIN EXTERNAL DELEGATION,

Abílio Araújo
HEAD

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G.I.F.: Basic Information.

There are only a few places in this world, which cannot be freely visited by representatives of the press and other institutions. East Timor is one.

Ever since the country was militarily invaded by Indonesian Forces on december 7th 1975, the Indonesian authorities have imposed a strict information blockade on East Timor. The outside world only could wonder what the Indonesians had and still have to hide.

There has been no monitoring mission which has been able to gather unrestricted information on the consequences of the military and civil actions of the Indonesian authorities since the end of 1975; which could contact members of the East Timorese population freely without being accompanied by representatives of the Indonesian Intelligence.

It is only because of a well organized resistance movement inside and outside East Timor that information can reach the outside world, which is not distributed by the Indonesian authorities. And that this outside world can take notice of the consequences and real character of the Indonesian occupation and the struggle of the people of East Timor against the Indonesian occupying forces.

It can be said that many Timorese daily risk their lives to gather actual information about the situation in their country and that some of them were imprisoned and even killed for these activities by the Indonesian authorities. .

In its diplomatic work the External Delegation of Fretilin (D.F.S.E.) always stressed the necessity of being able to distribute information about the actual situation in East

2./Timor

Timor. It is not so much a lack of information (in fact information increased remarkable after 1982), but a lack of funds which prevented us from setting up a well organized and effective Information Office.
In our point of view the distribution of information (which reaches us by means of our own channels) by the Information Office of Fretilin is indispensible for:

(a) A clarification of the real dimensions of the Indonesian occupation and the struggle of the East Timorese people for our right of self-determination and independence;

(b) The contribution it can make to the international debate on East Timor. The Indonesian military occupation of East Timor is still a major subject of international monitoring and debate. It can be noticed that the United Nations (and other important international fora and institutions) until now rejected the claim of the Indonesian government to have East Timor 'integrated' into their republic as a '27th province'. Many sovereign nations and organizations support the plea of East Timor for its right of self-determination;

(c) The exchange of information between the Revolutionary Council of the National Resistance (C.R.R.N.) inside East Timor, and the D.F.S.E.
It may be noted that within the present conditions of occupation, the organization and flow of information from East Timor is no 'children's play'. It took Fretilin many hardships to build up an outstanding network inside and outside East Timor by which material can be collected, channelled and distributed. It's only because of a strict organization of this network that information can be checked, valued and that people involved can (whenever possible) stay out of danger;

(d) The international network of solidarity groups, which since the Indonesian invasion of East Timor supported Fretilin and/or the East Timorese people in our fight for self-determination and independence;

(e) Knowledge on the actual situation in East Timor is important for every organization, institution, and person which/who

is interested in socio-political developments in so called 'third world countries'; countries under military occupation; issues like the right of self-determination of nations, peoples and persons; the violation of human rights; the 'question' of refugees;

(f) The diplomatic activities of the D.F.S.E.

The Information Office of Fretilin has started in november 1986.

As mentioned in our letter, Fretilin created an Information Office in december 1986. Until now this Office:

- reorganized incoming documents and other material into information with a public character;
- handed out several press releases about the actual situation in East Timor;
- started to republish a bi-monthly bulletin "NAKROMA", which can be considered to be an official newsbulletin of Fretilin;
- responded to many questions from the side of the international press, politicians, international organizations etc.;
- systematized the information from East Timor and started a system of documentation which is used for the analysis of developments in the field of international politics and the situation inside East Timor;
- supported the D.F.S.E. with organized information for doing their work in the field of diplomacy.

Because of the severe shortage of money, we had to fire the only paid member who was responsible for the work mentioned above.

This does not mean that all the work stopped, but a basic guarantee for the fulfilment of all activities disappeared. Our office, located in Lisbon, still continues to exist. But at this moment we hardly can make our information accessible and useful for public distribution.

PROJECT PROPOSAL.

G.I.F.
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CONTINUATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF FRETILIN.

I. Aims.

(1) To make documents and other material (like photos, maps, cassettes, etc.) received from East Timor into information (with a public character) which can be used by:

a. the international press (newspapers, periodicals, radio, television, etc.),
b. the D.F.S.E. in support of their diplomatic activities,
c. members of (inter)national institutions and fora, who devote (part of) their work to 'the question of East Timor',
d. solidarity groups, which ever since the Indonesian invasion of East Timor supported the struggle of the people of East Timor for our right of self-determination and independence,
e. every person who supports this struggle, but doesn't belong to one of the categories mentioned above,
f. last but not least, the displaced Timorese who now mainly live in Portugal and Australia.

Which can be realized by:

(a) the distribution of press releases,
(b) the publication of the bi-monthly bulletin NAKROMA,
(c) the publication of NAKROMA 'specials',
(d) composition of reports to be used by the D.F.S.E.,
(e) giving information to members of the press, politicians and others.

(2) To set up a documentation archive to support (1)

II. Budget Allocation.

In order to fulfil our aims and to carry out our plans, we think some basic facilities have to be taken care of and paid for: